

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 IO-10 OMB-01

SCCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 USSS-00 OC-05 CCO-00 SAM-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W

----- 119791

O R 211837Z DEC 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3880

INFO DIA DOD WASHDC

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8295

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILLAR

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

DIA DOD FOR DIN-2D4/DIR-3B3

SUBJECT: AIR FORCE REVOLT: SITREP NO. 11

1. AS OF 2 P.M. TODAY (DEC 21) THERE HAD BEEN NO NEW ATTACKS AGAINST MORON AND NO MOVES AGAINST AEROPARQUE. NEGOTIATIONS WITH REBEL AF OFFICERS CONTINUE. PRESS THIS MORNING EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT SOLUTION TO THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM WAS NEAR AT HAND, BUT OTHER OBSERVERS HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS. ARMY GEN MUJICA WAS DISMISSED LAST NIGHT, BUT SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER REPERCUSSIONS WITHIN ARMED FORCES.

2. EVEN IF AF CONFLICT WINDS DOWN, OF COURSE, TARGET POLITICAL
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PROBLEM WILL REMAIN. IN DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO IT:

3. LAST NIGHT, INTERIOR MINISTER ROBLEDO MADE STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID THAT ONCE DISCIPLINE IS RESTORED IN AF, GOVT WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER PROBLEMS WITH MILITARY COMMANDERS, WHETHER THEY WERE PROBLEMS OF A MILITARY NATURE OR NOT. THIS WAS TAKEN BY ALL SIDES TO MEAN THAT ROBLEDO UNDERSTANDS MATTER WILL NOT END WITH SUPPRESSION OF AF REBELLION; RATHER, FULL POLITICAL SOLUTION MUST BE NEGOTIATED.

4. CGT LAST NIGHT ISSUED STATEMENT EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MRS. PERON AND CONVOKING MEETING OF CENTRAL CONFEDERATED COMMITTEE FOR THIS MORNING. COMMITTEE MET AS SCHEDULED AND IS NOW IN PERMANENT SESSION. THIS REPRESENTS VERY WEAK RESPONSE ON PART OF CGT -- FOR THE MOMENT. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THEY COULD NOT CALL WORKERS TO STREET AS SITUATION DEVELOPS, BUT SO FAR THEIR REACTION HAS BEEN TAME THAN EXPECTED.

5. IN CONGRESS, OPPOSITION PARTIES AND SOME ANTI-VERTICALISTA PERONISTS CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR MRS. PERON'S DEPARTURE -- SOME FAVORING LEAVE OF ABSENCE, OTHERS DEMANDING RESIGNATION. VERTICALISTAS IN CHAMBER, ON OTHER HAND, CONTINUE PUBLICLY TO VOICE SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT (THOUGH IN PRIVATE THEY TOO -- OR AT LEAST MOST OF THEM -- REPORTEDLY ADMIT THAT SHE MUST GO). DEBATE HAS AT TIMES BECOME EXTREMELY BITTER. SENIOR SENATORS ARE PLAYING A MORE SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN TRYING TO FIND SOLUTION TO PROBLEM AND SOME CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS OF REMOVING MRS. PERON FROM PRESIDENCY EVEN IF SHE WILL NOT BUDGE ON HER OWN.

6. THREE DEVELOPMENTS EMBASSY HAS NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT WHICH, WHILE NOT DIRECTLY GERMANE TO MILITARY CRISIS, HAVE IMPACT ON MRS. PERON'S IMAGE AND SITUATION ARE: A) MID AT END OF WEEK WALKED OUT OF FREJULI BLOC; OR RATHER, MID DECLARED IT WAS NO LONGER PART OF BLOC SINCE LATTER HAD LONG SINCE COLLAPSED OF ITS OWN ROT. B) ON DEC 19 CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APPROVED CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S FINDING THAT INVESTIGATION OF CORRUPTION IN SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY WAS NOT A VIOLATION OF EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE. C) FEDERAL JUDGE FASOLINO LATE LAST WEEK ISSUED ARREST ORDER FOR LOPEZ REGA AND HIS TWO COHORTS, CARLOS VILLONE AND JOSE M. VANNI. FASOLINO REPORTEDLY ASKED INTERPOL TO PICK THEM UP. PARTIAL REPORT IN FASILIO'S HANDS ON WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "PAROXYSM OF CONFIDENTIAL

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VENALITY" IN MINISTRY UNDER LOPEZ REGA REPORTEDLY IS SO DAMNING THAT HE SAW NO REASON TO WAIT FOR REST OF REPORT BEFORE ISSUING ARREST ORDER. TROUBLES OF HER FORMER COURT FAVORITE BESMIRCH MRS. PERON'S BANNERS AS WELL AS HIS. ARREST ORDER THEN, COULD HARDLY COME AT WORSE TIME FOR HER.

7. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED DURING AFTERNOON AND EVENING.
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